



For Immediate Release

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Seven Entrepreneurs, Businesses, Organizations win Awards

Williston celebrated Economic Development Week by recognizing the achievements of seven individuals, businesses and organizations at the annual Small Business Development Center / Williston Economic Development Awards Banquet. The celebration was held on Wednesday, May 9 at the Grand Williston Hotel.

The winner of the 2018 Ambassador of the Year Award received a standing ovation from the more than 250 attendees. Cindy Sanford, Customer Service Manager for Job Service in Williston, was brought to tears by the honor (despite her claim that she wasn't a "crier"). She humbly shared advice she received from her father; take care of your family first, then your town, your region, your state, etc.

Other nominees for the Ambassador Award were Nancy Kapp, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Renaissance Companies and Dr. John Miller, President of Williston State College.

WED presented two other awards: NDSU Williston Research Extension Center won the Regional Business of the Year Award and the Miss North Dakota Scholarship Organization earned the 2018 Community Partnership Award.

"This awards ceremony is a chance for us to celebrate all of the hard work that goes into starting and maintaining a successful business," said Williston Economic Development executive director Shawn Wenko.

The Small Business Development Center and Williston State College also honored four businesses and individuals. Katie Kringen, owner of Chatter Pediatric Therapy, earned the 2018 Woman Owned Business Award; Zach Nelson was named Lender of the Year; Kyle and Tessa Helstad, owners of Bodo's Appliance & Outdoor Living, won the Existing Business of the Year Award and Dr. Ben Buntrock, owner of Buntrock Dental, earned the 2018 New Business of the Year Award.

More than 250 people attended the gala; enjoying the amusing and heartfelt commentary by emcee Joel Heitkamp (with support from Steve Slocum); expert video productions by The Creative Treatment; music by Nightlife Sound and Lighting, décor by Stylish Events and dinner by the Grand Williston Hotel.

"We devote a lot of resources to putting on an Oscars-styled awards show that is fun for everyone. Plus we have tremendous support from the business community so we don't

spend a penny of public money on the event," said Wenko.

The 2018 sponsors included Cardon Global, AE2S, JEDunn, Ulteig, Montana Dakota Utilities, Knife River Corporation, Williston Herald and KLJ.

Check out the economic development Facebook page for more details, photos and videos. Video highlights and a video of the entire program will be released next week.